

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Nevada County. NCTC coordinates State and Federal transportation programs for Nevada County, the Cities of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee.

The Nevada County Transportation Commission Newsletter is published bimonthly. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please write or call the Nevada County Transportation Commission office.

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Nevada County Transportation  
Commission Newsletter

Nevada County Transportation Commission  
101 Providence Mine Rd., Suite 102  
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NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

Issue 6

July 2001

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NCTC DURING  
FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001

As we close out our fiscal year, we would like to take a moment to highlight for you this year’s major accomplishments.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MITIGATION FEE PROGRAM

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) completed a study process to define the transportation improvements needed to accommodate the forecasted growth in western Nevada County and to identify the revenue needed to pay for these improvements. The County of Nevada and the cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City participated in these studies at both the policy and technical levels to find a way to raise funds to address the concerns about traffic congestion and the impact of future development in western Nevada County. To accommodate increased traffic and to maintain tolerable traffic congestion levels in the community, it is desirable to construct transportation system improvements in pace with new development as it occurs. The County of Nevada, the City of Grass Valley, City of Nevada City, and the NCTC have since formed a partnership to create the Western Nevada County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program. In order to obtain input from groups that the fee program would affect, a public outreach effort was conducted.

This new fee program was developed to collect revenue to finance improvements to western Nevada County streets and highways impacted by increased traffic resulting from new development projects. Fees are determined by the location of the development project and the volume of traffic the project generates. Transportation projects to be funded by the mitigation fee include new or modified signals, intersection improvements including possible roundabouts, widening of existing roadways, on- and off-ramp changes or additions, striping, and other similar improvements to facilitate the movement of additional traffic in the area.

If you are interested in finding out more about this program, you are welcome to review a copy of the Western Nevada County Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee Program handbook available at the NCTC office.

Improvement Projects Funded by the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee	Estimated Cost
No. Bloomfield Rd. @ SR 49 – Signal	\$150,000
Brunswick Rd. to SR 20 – Modify Signal & Rechannel Onramp	300,000
Brunswick Rd. @ Old Tunnel Rd. – Signal	200,000
* Dorsey Drive Interchange Project	5,781,000
E. Main St. @ Bennett St. – Realignment, Signal and Striping	1,500,000
Gold Flat Interchange Ramps – Intersection Improvements	250,000
Idaho Maryland Rd.@ E. Main St. Ramps–Intersection Improvement	350,000
McKnight Way Interchange – Dual Roundabouts and Striping	300,000
Mill St. @ McCourtney Rd. – Intersection Improvements	125,000
Mill St. @ SR 20 West Bound Ramp – Intersection Improvements	150,000
Nevada City Hwy. @ Joerschke Dr. – Signal	150,000
So. Auburn St. @ Colfax Ave. – Intersection Improvements	500,000
So. Auburn St. @ Empire St. – Signal	125,000
McKnight Way – Widening Freeman Rd. to Taylorville Rd.	350,000
<b>Total Cost of Projects</b>	<b>\$10,231,000</b>

\* It should be noted that mitigation fee revenues will cover only forty-seven percent of the Dorsey Drive Interchange Project, with the remaining fifty-three percent being paid from other sources.

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Upcoming NCTC Meeting

The next meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) will be held **Wednesday, July 18, 2001 at 9:00 A.M.**, in the **Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California.**

“Major Accomplishments” Continued

STATE ROUTE 49 WIDENING PROJECT

The first phase of this project, widening from south of the Bear River Bridge to the intersection of Combie / Wolf Road, remains on schedule. Upgrading the



SR 49 at Bear River Bridge

existing roadway to four lanes and a continuous left turn-lane will provide adequate capacity for future traffic demand, improve the current congestion during peak periods, and should reduce accidents and operational problems. The NCTC continues to explore with Caltrans the possibility of moving the construction start date from July to May of 2002. If this can be accomplished, it should allow  
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**“Major Accomplishments” Continued**

enough time to complete expansion of the Bear River Bridge during the 2002 construction season and hasten the completion of the project.

Caltrans is also working on the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA/ED) for the widening of SR 49 from just south of McKnight Way to Combie/Wolf Road. Caltrans is analyzing and preparing the different alternatives that could be used to tie in the access points along this portion of the SR 49 widening project. These alternatives will be presented to NCTC, the Nevada County Planning Department, and the Nevada County Department of Transportation for their review and comment. Once the PA/ED portion of this project is completed, the NCTC will work with Caltrans to program the necessary funding to accomplish the preparation of Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E).

**DORSEY DRIVE INTERCHANGE**

The Dorsey Drive Interchange project is currently in the PA/ED phase of project development. Caltrans is currently working on scheduling a meeting with NCTC, the county, and city staff to receive input on the traffic modeling assumptions and outputs prepared by Caltrans for this project. When completed, the interchange



Looking West from Dorsey Drive at Golden Center Freeway

will provide a direct access to several high use sites, specifically the Nevada County Sierra College Campus, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, and the Litton Hill development. This project will provide benefits to the overall regional circulation by helping to alleviate congestion in the Brunswick Basin and E. Main Street corridors. The Dorsey Drive Interchange is included in the Mitigation Fee Program, which will aid in securing funds for this project.

**FUTURE PROJECTS 2001/02**

Projects proposed for the 2001/02 Overall Work Program (OWP) have been reviewed and accepted by staff from each member agency of the NCTC. The following projects represent our primary planning activities for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001.

**SR 49 COMPREHENSIVE CORRIDOR PLAN**

In recognition of the interregional importance of this corridor, NCTC plans to work closely with Caltrans and the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency. As the Highway 49 corridor is being developed, this project will provide a plan to develop standards for traffic operations and maximize their efficiency, as well as, identify and maintain the natural environment and cultural resources along this corridor.

**WESTERN AND EASTERN NEVADA COUNTY TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Since the last update of the Transit Development Plans four years ago, significant changes have occurred for both transit and paratransit services in the County. The plans will address issues regarding route structures, capital acquisition, service improvements, and existing and future revenue sources.

**SO. NEVADA COUNTY CIRCULATION STUDY**

This project evolved from discussions between NCTC and County staff concerning traffic flow in the Higgins Corner and Lake of the Pines area. The Nevada County Department of Transportation is the lead agency in this project. The project will analyze potential linkages to improve circulation in this area.

**FEASIBILITY STUDY – BRUNSWICK / LOMA RICA ROAD INTERSECTION RELOCATION**

This work element was included following concerns raised by the County. At this location it is not possible to signalize the current intersection due to the steep slopes on Brunswick and Loma Rica Road. The study will identify and analyze the topographic, cost, and right-of-way constraints associated with relocating the intersection to a more suitable location.

**“Future Projects” Continued**

**DONNER PASS ROAD / BROCKWAY ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY**

This project was included following a request by the Town of Truckee to analyze the existing and future operation of this corridor. Truckee’s Town Engineer will be the project manager and NCTC staff will participate in the project’s Technical Advisory Committee. The study will prepare an analysis of improvements needed during the next twenty years.

**CALTRANS PROJECTS**

**STATE ROUTE 267 BYPASS**

The contractor for this project expedited work and pushed ahead of schedule with the hope of finishing during the Summer of 2001. The original schedule was to complete the project in the Summer of 2002.



SR 267 Bypass over Truckee River

However, the contractor was unable to continue at the expedited pace, and the project is reverting back to the original schedule of completion in 2002. The contractor has completed the majority of the bypass bridgework over the Truckee River, which is pictured above.

(“Projects” Continue on Page 3)

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD**



Robert Drake



Josh Susman

Robert Drake retired from the Truckee Town Council on May 31st. Bob moved to Truckee in 1989, retiring from the California State Department of Justice. He was elected to the original Town Council and took office in March of 1993. Later in 1993, he was appointed to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors by the Governor to fill the 5th District position. He was re-elected to the Town Council in June 1994 and again in November 1998, and served as Truckee's Mayor in 1997.

Robert Drake also served from 1995 until May 2001 as the Town of Truckee’s representative on the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC). While a Commissioner of the NCTC, he worked diligently to represent the Town of Truckee and to improve the transportation system throughout Nevada County. Mr. Drake fought to gain the State’s support for the construction of SR 267 Truckee Bypass Project and to retain the Truckee Ramps as part of this improvement. The Nevada County Transportation Commission is grateful to Mr. Drake for a job well done.

The Nevada County Transportation Commission welcomes Truckee Town Council Member Josh Susman as the Town of Truckee’s new representative on the Commission. Josh was elected to the Truckee Town Council in November 1996 and served as Truckee's Mayor from December 1998 through December 1999. Josh is committed to preserving Truckee's colorful history while accommodating the growing needs of the Truckee area.

**“Caltrans Projects” Continued from Page 2**

**SIGNAL PROJECT AT STATE ROUTE 49 AND NORTH BLOOMFIELD – NEVADA CITY**

Construction has been suspended pending California Transportation Commission’s approval of the funding necessary to complete this project. Additional funding is needed to finish the removal of rocks present in the project boundary. Caltrans anticipates this project will be operational by Fall of 2001.



Intersection of No. Bloomfield at SR 49 - Looking West -



The Rocks on SR 49 at No. Bloomfield Causing the Project Delay



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ANNUAL DETERMINATION OF UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS WILL BE HELD BY THE NCTC ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 19, 2001 AT 9:30 A.M. IN THE GRASS VALLEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 125 EAST MAIN STREET, GRASS VALLEY**

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to receive testimony identifying or commenting on unmet transit needs that may exist within Nevada County and that might be reasonable to meet.

The Commission’s definition of “reasonable to meet” may take into consideration such factors as equity, timing, feasibility, community acceptance, economy (short-term and long-term), cost effectiveness, and other factors related to transit services deemed appropriate by the Commission.

Individuals, as well as representatives of groups interested in transportation, are invited to attend and participate.

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